

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the above-mentioned application is hereby requested in view of the above amendments and remarks which follow.

Applicants appreciate the thorough examination of the application by the Examiner and in the indication of the allowable subject matter in the claims objected to, namely claim 11, 12, 15, 16, 24, 25, 30 and 31.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-10, 13-14, 17-23 and 26-29 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Hensel, GB Patent Application No. 2034069. The Examiner indicated the Hensel teaches a device for installing an optical fiber and a connector (Fig. 1) comprising an optical fiber cleaving mechanism 9, 9a; a connector holding means (Specification, Page 1, lines 125-129 and Page 2, lines 1-37; element 13, and Fig. 5); and a fiber insertion mechanism.

Applicants traverse the Examiner's characterization of the Hensel reference in that Applicants are providing a device for installing an optical fiber and an optical connector, not providing a mechanism for taping optical fibers after their jointing, as in Hensel.

However to further clarify Applicants' invention, Applicants have amended the term "a connector holding means" to "means for holding an optical fiber connector". Applicants believe that Hensel only shows a tape wrapping mechanism 13 for wrappings optical fibers, not a mechanism for holding an optical fiber connector.

Applicants have also added new claims 32-39 where claim 32 is claim 11 rewritten in independent format, and where independent claim 38 is claim 24 rewritten in independent format.

Applicants therefore believe that all of the pending 1-39 are in condition for allowance and respectfully request early passage thereof.

Application No. 10/578,239
Amendment dated April 13, 2010
Reply to Office Action of January 4, 2010

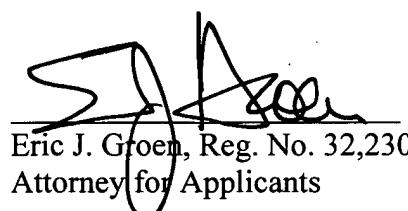
For all the amendments and remarks, Applicants believe that claims 1-39 are presently allowable and would respectfully request passage thereof.

Certificate Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.8(a)

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on April 13, 2010.


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Respectfully submitted,


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